IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1.   (currently amended) A data processing system for bulk data transfer comprising:

a source data processing system for distributing data to one or more target data processing systems wherein after an interruption of distributing said data, distributing said data may be restarted at a checkpoint; and

one or more fan-out nodes for transferring said data between said source system and each of said one or more target data processing systems and transferring result information between said one or more target data processing systems and a preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions.

2.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of said result information.

3.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein a data distribution has a preselected priority, said preselected priority operable for determining an availability of resources for said transferring of said data and said transferring of said result information.

4.   (original) The system of Claim 1 wherein said one or more fan-out nodes comprises a plurality of fan-out nodes, and wherein said transferring of said data comprises:

receiving said data from said source data processing system by a first fan-out node;

sending said data to a second fan-out node; and

sending said data from said second fan-out node to one or more of said target data processing systems.

5.   (original)   The system of Claim 1 wherein source data processing system distributes said data in response to a request from at least one of said target data processing systems.

6.   (original) The system of Claim 5 wherein a preselected one of said one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions enqueues said request in a database.

7.   (original) The system of Claim 6 wherein said request comprises:

a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;

an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and process the data; and

an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions.

8.   (original) The system of Claim 6 wherein said request is assigned a preselected distribution priority and said request is enqueued in accordance with said preselected distribution priority.

9.   (currently amended) A method for distributing data comprising the steps of:

transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or more endpoint systems wherein after an interruption of transferring said data, transferring said data may be restarted at a checkpoint; and

transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

10.   (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of said result information.

11.   (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of transferring said data is performed in response to a request received from at application on at least one of said plurality of endpoints.

12.   (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said request includes:

a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;

an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and process the data; and

an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions.

13.   (original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

assigning one of a preselected set of priority values to each data distribution; and

determining an availability of a network connection for said step of transferring said data in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

14.   (previously amended) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of determining an availability of a network connection for said transferring of results information in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

15.   (original) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

assigning a distribution lifetime value to each data distribution; and

aborting said step of transferring said data in response to an unavailability of said connection for a time interval corresponding to said distribution lifetime.

16.   (currently amended)   A computer program product embodied in a machine readable storage medium, the program product including programming for distributing data comprising instructions for:

transferring said data via a first set of one or more fan-out nodes to one or more endpoint systems <u>wherein after an interruption of transferring said data, transferring said data may be restarted at a checkpoint</u>; and

transferring results information via a second set of said one or more fan-out nodes from said one or more endpoint systems to a preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions, said results information generated in response to said step of transferring said data.

17.   (original)   The program product of Claim 16 wherein each of said one or more fan-out nodes is operable for caching at least a portion of a data distribution and at least a portion of said result information.

18.   (original)   The program product of Claim 16 wherein said instructions for transferring said data are performed in response to a request received from at application on at least one of said plurality of endpoints.

19.   (original)   The program product of claim 18 wherein said request includes:

a list of target data processing systems to receive the data;

an identifier of a method by which the target machines will receive and process the data; and

an identifier of a notification method by which said result information from each endpoint system will be received by said preselected set of one or more data processing systems for managing data distributions.'

20.   (original)   The program product of Claim 17 further comprising instruction for:

assigning one of a preselected set of priority values to each data distribution; and

determining an availability of a network connection for said step of transferring said data in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

21.   (previously amended) The program product of Claim 20 further comprising instructions for determining an availability of a network connection for said transferring of results information in response to said one of said preselected set of priority values.

22.   (original) The program product of Claim 20 further comprising instructions for:

assigning a distribution lifetime value to each data distribution; and

aborting said step of transferring said data in response to an unavailability of said connection for a time interval corresponding to said distribution lifetime.